

What is claimed is:

**Claims**

1. A link management system for creating links amongst units of information based on a list of identifiers arranged in an hierarchical order wherein each identifier identifies an associated unit of information, said system comprising:
- 5 means for storing said list of identifiers;
- means for examining said list of identifiers to determine the hierarchical order of said identifiers within said list of identifiers;
- means for linking a unit of information to at least one other unit of information based on the relative hierarchical order of identifiers including:
- 10 an identifier identifying said unit of information; and
- another identifier identifying said at least one other unit of information.
2. The link management system of claim 1 wherein:
- said units of information are units of target information;
- 15 each said identifier of said list of identifiers is adapted to identify source information content of a unit of source information;
- the system further comprises:
- means for generating said units of target information;
- means for examining said list of identifiers to identify said source
- 20 information content assigned to a unit of target information; and
- means for inserting said source information content into a unit of target information based on the identifier of said unit of target information identifying said source information content.
3. The link management system of claim 2 wherein a plurality of source information content
- 25 is assigned to a unit of target information.

4. The link management system of claim 1 wherein:

said units of information are units of target information;

each said identifier of said list of identifiers is adapted to identify source information content of a unit of source information assigned to a unit of target information;

5 said list of identifiers further comprises:

a first subset of identifiers for identifying said units of target information to be generated by said system, said first subset hierarchically ordered to indicate preferred linking of said units of target information;

10 a second subset of identifiers for identifying said source information content to be inserted into said units of target information identified by said first subset of identifiers;

said means for linking is adapted to link a unit of target information to at least one other unit of target information based on the relative hierarchical order of identifiers including:

15 an identifier of said first subset for identifying said unit of target information;

at least one other identifier of said first subset for identifying said at least one other unit of target information; and

said system further comprises:

20 means for generating said units of target information; and

means for inserting at least one source information content into a unit of target information based on an identifier of said second subset identifying said at least one source information content.

25 5. The link management system of claim 4 wherein said list of identifiers further includes a third subset of identifiers for identifying links for inter-linking units of target information.

6. The link management system of claim 5 wherein the means for linking is adapted to inserting URL links.

7. The link management system of claims 3 or 5 wherein said identifiers of said list are data tags of a markup language.

8. A method performed on a computer system operationally coupled to computer readable memory for storing a list of identifiers, and said method for creating and managing links amongst units of information based on said list of identifiers arranged in an hierarchical order wherein each identifier identifies an associated unit of information, said method comprising the steps of:

storing said list of identifiers;

examining said list of identifiers to determine the hierarchical order of said

identifiers within said list of identifiers;

linking a unit of information to at least one other unit of information based on the relative hierarchical order of identifiers including:

an identifier identifying said unit of information; and

another identifier identifying said at least one other unit of information.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein:

said units of information are units of target information;

each said identifier of said list of identifiers is adapted to identify source information content of a unit of source information;

the method further comprising the steps of:

generating said units of target information;

examining said list of identifiers to identify said source information content assigned to a unit of target information; and

inserting said source information content into a unit of target information based on the identifier of said unit of target information identifying said source information content.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein a plurality of source information content is assigned to a unit of target information.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein:

said units of information are units of target information;

each said identifier of said list of identifiers is adapted to identify source information content of a unit of source information assigned to a unit of target information;

5 said list of identifiers further comprises:

a first subset of identifiers for identifying said units of target information to be generated by said system, said first subset hierarchically ordered to indicate preferred linking of said units of target information;

10 a second subset of identifiers for identifying said source information content to be inserted into said units of target information being identified by said first subset of identifiers;

said step of linking is adapted to link a unit of target information to at least one other unit of target information based on the relative hierarchical order of identifiers including:

15 an identifier of said first subset for identifying said unit of target information;

at least one other identifier of said first subset for identifying said at least one other unit of target information; and

said method further comprising the steps of:

20 generating said units of target information; and

inserting at least one source information content into a unit of target information based on an identifier of said second subset identifying said at least one source information content.

25 12. The method of claim 11 wherein said list of identifiers further includes a third subset of identifiers for identifying links for inter-linking units of target information.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of linking is adapted to inserting URL links.

14. The method of claims 10 or 12 wherein said identifiers of said list are data tags of a markup language.

18. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein:

said units of information are units of target information;

each said identifier of said list of identifiers is adapted to identify source information content of a unit of source information assigned to a unit of target information;

5 said list of identifiers further comprises:

a first subset of identifiers for identifying said units of target information to be generated by said system, said first subset hierarchically ordered to indicate preferred linking of said units of target information;

10 a second subset of identifiers for identifying said source information content to be inserted into said units of target information being identified by said first subset of identifiers;

said code for instructing said computer system to link is adapted to link a unit of target information to at least one other unit of target information based on the relative hierarchical order of identifiers including:

15 an identifier of said first subset for identifying said unit of target information;

at least one other identifier of said first subset for identifying said at least one other unit of target information; and

said computer program product further comprises:

20 code for instructing said computer system to generate said units of target information; and

code for instructing said computer system to insert at least one source information content into a unit of target information based on an identifier of said second subset identifying said at least one source information content.

25 19. The computer program product of claim 18 wherein said list of identifiers further includes a third subset of identifiers for identifying links for inter-linking units of target information.

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20. The computer program product of claim 19 wherein said code for instructing said computer system to link is adapted to inserting URL links.

21. The computer program product of claims 17 or 19 wherein said identifiers of said list are data tags of a markup language.